

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are all the claims pending in the application.

1. Changes to the Drawings

Applicants are submitting one replacement drawing sheet including Fig. 6. Applicants have corrected step S107 in Fig. 6. Specifically, Applicants have changed “ $n > N-1$ ” to “ $n = N-1$.” The changes to Fig. 6 are supported at least at page 13, lines 9-11, of the Specification.

2. Claim Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kosaka (EP 0427485 A2) [“Kosaka”]. For at least the following reasons, Applicants traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites a method for synthesizing speech that comprises “summing squares of signal levels of an n -th frame in said frequency signal to obtain a frame power correction value for the n -th frame.” (emphasis added). The Examiner contends that “Kosaka teaches a power normalizing function is added (“summing squares”) or subtracted from the original data signal.” The Examiner then contends that this disclosure reads on the claimed summing squares of signal levels. Office Action at page 3.

Kosaka discloses that the “adding” (alleged summing squares of signal levels) or subtracting of the normalization function from the original data cancels the gaps between the average powers formed at both ends of the VCV data (page 6, lines 35-50, Fig. 4A-C). This provides the normalized VCV data as shown in Fig. 4C. Accordingly, this section in Kosaka discloses that the “adding” of the normalization function is the actual correction process in order

to obtain synthesized speech that is natural and smooth (Figs. 4A-C, page 4, line 11-17, page 6, lines 35-50), not the obtaining of a frame correction value for the n-th frame.

To the extent the Examiner may contend that the normalization function itself is the claimed frame correction value, Kosaka discloses that this function is obtained by connecting a line between the gaps at each end of the VCV data (page 6, lines 41-44, Fig. 4B). The gaps represent the distance between the average powers of the stored vowels (page 6, line 40). Therefore, even if the normalization function can be considered a frame correction value, the correction value for any given frame is not based on “summing squares of signal levels of an n-th frame in said frequency signal,” as set forth in claim 1, but rather the average power value of the entire vowel.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the Examiner has failed to make a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Because claims 2-4 depend on claim 1, Applicants submit that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Serial No. 09/684,331

Attorney Docket No.: Q61111

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

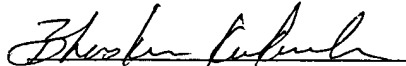
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Date: September 19, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicants are submitting one replacement drawing sheet including Fig. 6. Applicants have corrected step S107 in Fig. 6. Specifically, Applicants have changed “ $n > N-1$ ” to “ $n = N-1$.”

Attachment: 1 Replacement Sheet (FIG. 6).